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January 27, 2010

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"New Orleanians are breathing a big sigh of relief today that we will finally be able to move forward with rebuilding Charity Hospital. This is welcome news for a city that has been without a downtown public hospital since Katrina's floodwaters destroyed the old Charity four-and-a-half years ago. I am pleased the arbitration panel quickly reached a decision that will benefit the thousands of Louisianians who depend on Charity for their health care.

"Today's landmark decision demonstrates how much FEMA was grossly undervaluing the cost of rebuilding projects, forcing cities and parishes to haggle for years to get what they were due and slowing the recovery of the entire Gulf Coast region. The independent arbitration panel, designed by Sen. Landrieu and passed in the House with my full support, is a way forward to end the gridlock and clear the backlog of stalled recovery projects.

"FEMA should take this ruling as a sign that they need to move quickly in resolving the other disputes that are holding up recovery projects around Louisiana."

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